



14 August 1907

CLEEVE HOUSE,
MELKSHAM,
WILTS.

Wednesday.

No letter from you today, which
considering how poor Maria was thrown
up for not writing no day, makes me
wonder what can be the reason.
My Billy.

Adrian sounds rather
depressing. Why is it? I'm
afraid he won't get on
with Pernel much probably.
However no doubt he'll
cheer up soon. Perhaps
he thinks the climate
too relaxing or something.
but it has been like a
hot ~~hot~~ bath here too.
It's hot & steamy that we
could hardly walk at all
I keep thinking of Monday

week. In the joy of getting
away from punctual fairly
meals. To scramble once
more. I don't think I have
ever been in such an un-
comfortable house as this.
With all their money it is
really amazing. There are only
a half-dozen comfortable chairs
in it, one of which it is true
I have secured for my room.
Then the light is so appalling.
Flaring electric lights with red
shade - revealing all the
native ugliness of every object
in the house. If they were
Vaughans we could understand
it - but with all the comforts

It makes a shoolreds at
their convenience it is really
very odd. I suppose, like
Beatrice, they have no sense
of comfort. but still even Bath
House is well provided with
soft chairs & sofas.

I have finished down & it
is very bad - of course. But
it doesn't much matter. I
have resigned myself to
doing nothing worth doing
until next spring.

I think you were quite
right to ask £3000 from
Pierpont. It looks as if
anyhow he would try though
he may have to come
down a little. but I shall
hold out for £3000 as long

as possible as it is not at all
out of proportion. This that
\$1000 & me knows he
can easily pay.

I hope Ed Henry James won't
be too momentous & difficult.
However I'm glad he won't be
able to ask me about my
writing, - ^{NYPL} thought no doubt my
reminiscences - which have
come to a full stop at page 13 -
would interest him very much.
Was he rather flattered at
the thought of our near neigh-
bourhood to him? Do you
think there is any chance
of Rosamund's having been shot
at Belfast? I am going to
write to Topley & ask her for
the receipt of Crème ~~lustrée~~
which might please her & her
maison

1917
16 August

GLEEVE HOUSE,
MELKSHAM,
WILTS.

Friday.

My Billy.

Why have you received
a letter to me with no
word of explanation? I
wondered for 2 today instead,
but only one has come.
Still for that I am thank-
ful. We are just back
from Bath. Mr. Bell took
us there in the motor
this morning & left us
there going on to Bristol
himself. We spent an
hour in Mr. Gregory's bookshop

which would have delighted
you. (Live bright various
beautiful vellum covered
classics. & an edition of
Percy for Dorothy. 2
Then we had luncheon &
Bath bus at 4.15. Went
you some bus which I
hope will be good after
being warmed up in the
oven. Our day as usual
was spoiled by rain & we
had to spend the afternoon
reading the papers in the
Pump-room. till it was time

to catch my train home.

I shall be curious to hear
how you get on with Pernel.

I suppose she will be a self-
supporting visitor & will be
quite happy with a fortnight.

but it will be odd to have
a Strachey actually in the
house with you. I look
upon them as host-house
feasts, more or less, & can't
imagine them in ordinary
life. I don't know what
Lyton's visit to us will be
like. I hope old Pierspoint
won't make too great a
descent from the £3000
as it's difficult to bargain
with him when we will

I suppose take what he likes
to live. but I have full
confidence in your wisdom
I saw a charming party of
children today at Bath,
rather like my 3, having
tea with their father & mother
in a ship. The parents were
quite young. & there was
a boy & an eldest little girl
& a small sister. & they were
evidently in bliss - eating
all sorts of good things with
spoons waving. & all very
clean & pretty & nice looking.
I thought I would take my
family out to tea in a
ship sometime with Aunt
Pats too. only she would not
feed them. & in vain.

20 August 1907

Tuesday.

CLEEVE HOUSE,
MELKSHAM,
WILTS.

My Billy.

I had two letters from
you yesterday. If you knew
how exactly alike days
are here, except for the
post, you would not wonder
at my being disappointed
when no letter comes -
But the feelings & wishes
of the married will never
cease to surprise you for
you expect them all to

have changed from those
of the single. So when I
had two letters yesterday
I was quite as much
pleased as you could have
been & I found more
relief than you can now
in escaping from the Bosk
breakfast-conversation into
Sweet William's lively wit
& hazy embraces. I
am writing today to Ellen
about linen hampers &
trains & tickets which really
seems to bring Rye near.

Is your classmate widow
the wife of an architect?
I hope there aren't many
callers at Rye. but luckily
my landlady can't have
told people to call upon us.
Do you want anything
in London? We shall be
there for some hours on
Monday.

I have made no autumn
plans this year as yet. for
I suppose that the arrival
of the infant will be my
chief winter event. & my
plan for disposing of Sewall's
can't come into force till
next summer. It would
involve of course leaving
Gordon Square - but it's

all too nebulous yet. I see
only that some change must
be made, for our present
course is too cumbersome
& too expensive to be worth
while.

Do you want
Clive's glasses? I forgot to
give them to you while you
were here. ^{MY DIL} He found
that they were here & not
in London as he had thought.

I shall soon have done
with writing you dull letters,
Thank God. How delicious
your sunsets & sea mists &
castles in the marsh sound
& our view from Watchbeck
St. instead of the eternal clouds
& green fields here. I am
getting gradually petrified
yours Maria

21 August 1907

Wednesday.

CLEEVE HOUSE,
MELKSHAM,
WILTS.

My Billy.

I have been rather
bad about writing to you
I'm afraid. The post
seems to go at such
awkward hours here.
I'm always just
missing me - & now
I've only time for
a line. However of
course I've no news
so if I write pages
you wouldn't get much

except from them.

You write charming
letters to me Billy
& I think your
nurse must be pleased
with you now & smiling
upon you so often.

Is your life as good
as your letters?

Mr. Ball has gone off
to Paris & the rest of
us sit here, dull as
ditch water & I hope

with my beads open
waiting for your drops
of crystal to be poured
in daily. (live for
the drops today - &
a letter from Sam!)

Jill's baby does not
seem to have arrived
yet - at least it
hadn't 10 days ago.

Now I must stop
I suppose. Quite
sweir at me for
treating you so

ladly.

you

V.B.

NYPL

1908

7 March

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Friday.

Billy.

I am really terrified
of sending you this but
let me explain before
you rage. Remember
that 3 or 4 years ago
you gave me £10
with which to take

Snow abroad. You actually
gave it to her but of
course it was really a

trouble that you have some time in
which to get over your first rage for I am
horribly terribly
afraid of
Mr. Manning made
the best
awful fox
paw
hair.

1908
7 March

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Friday.

My Billy.

I am really terrified

of sending you this but

let me explain before

you rape. Remember

that 3 or 4 years ago

you gave me £10

with which to take

down a broad. You actually

gave it to her but it

came it was really a

thankful that you have some time in
which to get over your first rape for I am

honestly terribly
afraid of
having made
the most
awful fox
paw

Yr
Haver.

48, Gordon Square,

Bloombury.

present to me - & I want
you now to let me pay
you back by having
you instead of Snow as
my Easter companion.
Think how ^{NYPL} happy we
shall be. Billy if we need
not stress about filling
here at St Ives. Think
too how willing I am now
& how impoverished you
were, poor little imperious

rat. when you insisted
upon financing my
travelling companion then.
Now we have £1000
& I really don't know
how we shall spend our
£200 this year - so
let me spend this fragment
of it in having a ~~easy~~
easy mind with which
to enjoy our holiday at
St. Ives - In 5 years time
when your genius is
beginning to be recognized
you shall again provide
me with a companion
at Easter - & 5 years

after that when we have
come into our millions
& you have married a
poor journalist & have a
large family. I shall
again take you into me
Wm L. Ives. I know
that I was very stupid
today in expecting you
expect something nice when
you will only get really
this irritating epistle &
I have been thinking how
stupid I was ever since.
I hope you may come
tomorrow morning & have
your tail kindly at me.
I am sending Adrian a
cheque too for other reasons. I
hope he won't resent. I am